

- BC's inflation rate drops to 1.6% as pressure from energy prices eases
- BC spending on home repairs and renovations drops in 2002
- More young people with high school diplomas

## Prices

- **British Columbia's year-over-year inflation rate moderated to 1.6% in October, as pressure from energy prices eased off.** The cost of energy was 0.8% lower this October than in the same month of 2002. Prices for other consumer goods and services were up 1.9%.

Energy prices soared last winter, and have put upward pressure on the annual inflation rate since then, but have been easing in recent months. Prices at the pump were down 4.4% in October, and consumers paid 0.7% less for fuel oil. However, the cost of piped gas remained 16.0% higher than in October 2002.

Rising shelter costs (+1.9%) continued to boost BC's inflation rate. Consumers are paying more for water (+3.1%) and property taxes (+4.4%) have risen, as have homeowner's insurance premiums (+9.8%). Nationwide, insurance costs are increasing as the effects of natural disasters such as floods or fires have boosted claims at the same time that income from investments in the stock market has been declining. Insurers are now depending more heavily on premiums to pay for the cost of insuring property than they did in the past.

With the exception of meat, fish, and non-alcoholic beverages, most food items cost substantially more than they did a year ago. Prices for recreation, education and reading materials (+4.5%) and alcoholic beverages & tobacco products (+4.3%) were also higher than in October 2002, largely due to the effect of tobacco taxes and tuition fees. However, consumers paid less for clothing & footwear (-1.3%), and transportation (-1.0%).

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Canada's inflation rate was also 1.6% in October, marking the first time in more than a year that BC's inflation rate has been as high as the**

**Canadian average.** Alberta (+1.8%) and Ontario (+1.7%) were the only provinces where the year-over-year inflation rate was higher than in BC. Newfoundland (+0.9%) had the lowest inflation rate of any province. Among metropolitan areas, Victoria (+1.8%), Edmonton (+2.0%) and Toronto (+2.3%) saw the biggest price increases. Vancouver's 1.4% inflation rate was closer to the average for other urban centres.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

## Tourism

- **Visitor entries to BC from the US and overseas slipped (-0.7%, seasonally adjusted) in September.** The drop in entries was largely due to fewer visits from the US (-1.1%). Same-day travel from the States edged up 0.3%, but the number of people crossing the border for longer visits fell for the first time since May.

Travel from overseas continued to pick up (+1.1%), but at a slower pace than in the recent past. Entries from Asia advanced 2.0%, but there were fewer visitors from Europe (-0.8%).

For the fifth month in a row, the number of same day car trips from BC to the US increased (+1.5%) in September. With a stronger Canadian dollar, same day travel to the US is becoming more attractive to Canadians, who no longer have to pay as much of a premium for every US dollar they spend south of the border.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

## Homeowner Repairs & Renovations

- **BC homeowners spent an average of \$2,274 on repairs and renovations in 2002, slightly less than in the previous year (\$2,340 in constant 2002 dollars).** Nearly two-thirds (65%) of the spending was devoted to contracted work, with the remainder going to purchase materials. Residents of BC and Ontario (69%) devoted the biggest share of their repair and renovation budget to contracted work. People who live in

## Did you know...

41,842 young British Columbians received high school diplomas in 2000/01

Newfoundland & Labrador are more likely to be do-it-yourselfers: just 37% of their repair and renovation budget was spent on contract work. Three out of every four home-owner households in Canada reported doing some repairs and renovations in 2002. Painting was the most common type of repair work, with 45% of owners doing either an interior or exterior paint job. Plumbing, heating and air conditioning work, and repairs to patios, fences and driveways were also common.

*Data Source: SC, Catalogue 62-201*

### Education

- **A growing number of young British Columbians are staying in school long enough to earn a high school diploma.** In the 2000/01 school year, 76% of BC youth aged 15 to 20 graduated from high school. This was just under the Canadian average (77%). In 1996/97, the high school graduation rate in BC was 71%, well below the Canadian average of 76%.

*Data Source: SC, The Daily*

- **Canadian parents are strongly committed to a post-secondary education for their children.** Ninety-three percent of parents with children aged 18 or under expect that their offspring will obtain some type of post-secondary education. Most (74%) parents of young children (aged five or younger) expect that they will earn a university degree, but these expectations change as the young ones grow older. Sixty-eight percent of parents with youngsters aged 6 to 12, and 61% of those with children aged 13 to 18, see a university degree in their child's future. One in two families is saving to finance their children's post-secondary education.

*Data Source: SC, The Daily*

### Saving for Retirement

- **Canadians had stashed away an estimated \$1.15 trillion in retirement income programs by the end of 2001.** After adjusting for inflation, this was almost double the level (\$594 billion in 2001 dollars) that had been saved a decade earlier. Most (69%) of the assets were in employer-sponsored pension plans (RPPs). Another 25% were in RRSPs and 6% was saved in the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans. About 40% of paid workers in Canada have access to an RPP.

*Data Source: SC, The Daily*

- **Canadian seniors appear to be well set for their retirement years.** More than half of all seniors own their homes mortgage free, and nearly as many are still saving. Only one in ten are dipping into investment capital to make ends meet. Three out of four senior families are debt-free and those who do owe money typically owe less than younger families (\$6,500 compared to \$32,000). About a third feel the need to budget to make ends meet. This compares to about half of younger families.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

### TV viewing

- **Residents of BC (20.8 hours a week) and Alberta (20.0 hours per week) spent less time glued to the TV than other Canadians in the fall of 2002.** The national average was 21.6 hours. Quebecers spent more time (23.8 hours) watching TV than any other Canadians.

In BC, drama (25%), comedy (11%), music and dance (11%) and sports (10%) are the most popular program types. BC residents spend 72% of their TV viewing time tuned in to Canadian stations.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

### Marriages

- **The number of marriages solemnized in British Columbia dropped 6.9% between 2000 and 2001, when 20,558 couples tied the knot.** While religious marriage services remain the norm in Canada (76% of Canadians were married by a member of the clergy), this is not the case in BC, where non-religious services are most common (57%). BC was the only province where couples were most likely to opt for a secular wedding ceremony. In Ontario, nearly all marriages (99%) were performed by a member of the clergy.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

### Oops!

*There was an error in last week's issue of highlights. The first sentence of the bullet on public sector infrastructure should have read:*

*Local governments held about half of Canada's \$228 billion in public sector capital in 2002, with federal (18%) and provincial (34%) governments owning smaller shares.*

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BC STATS, Box Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9V1

Tel: (250) 387-0327 Fax: (250) 387-0329 Web: [www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca) E-mail: [bcstats.infoline@gems6.gov.bc.ca](mailto:bcstats.infoline@gems6.gov.bc.ca)

Contact: Dave O'Neil, (250) 387-0337

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## How Many People Were Missed in the 2001 Census?

### Summary

*In each census, some Canadian residents are missed and some are counted more than once. Starting with the 1991 Census, Statistics Canada has made the decision to adjust the official population estimates to include a measure of net census undercoverage (persons missed less persons counted more than once). The population estimates in this report are based on information from the 2001 Census, adjusted for net census undercoverage.*

After each census, Statistics Canada undertakes an extensive evaluation of the quality of the census using statistical methods to assess the coverage of the census. These coverage studies consist of the Reverse Record Check, which primarily measures undercoverage, and the Automated Match and Collective Dwellings studies, which measure overcoverage.

People are missed in the census for numerous reasons—households, such as those in secondary suites that are difficult for the enumerators to locate, difficulties in understanding the questionnaire, uncertainty about whether to include someone in a household, persons with no usual residence and a few people who refuse to participate in the census.

The Reverse Record Check (RRC) study selects a sample of approximately 60,000 Canadian residents, who should have been enumerated in the 2001 Census. These persons are selected from the following sources:

- persons enumerated in the 1996 Census;
- persons born between the 1996 and 2001 Censuses;

- immigrants who entered Canada between the 1996 and 2001 Censuses;
- persons who were not enumerated in the 1996 Census, as identified from the 1996 RRC;
- persons on work, student or ministerial permits and refugee claimants, who were in Canada on Census day (May 14, 2001);
- persons on Territorial Health Care Files (for Yukon and NWT only).

The sample represents the same target population as the census, but is obtained in such a manner as to be independent of the census itself. For each person selected in the sample, it must be determined if the person was enumerated in the 2001 Census, if so how many times and if not why not (e.g. the person died, left the country, was missed by the census,...). The RRC is a comprehensive record linkage and matching procedure, which systematically traces all persons in its sample, interviews them to obtain a census day address, and matches these persons to individual census documents.

**Overcoverage** in the census occurs when persons in the census target population are counted more than once, and when persons not in the target population (e.g. foreign residents, fictitious persons or pets) are enumerated. The first type of overcoverage can occur when a respondent fills out two census forms at different dwellings or when two census questionnaires are delivered to the same household.

The Automated Match Study (AMS) is designed to detect pairs of similar households based on

the number of persons matched between households (same sex and date of birth), the size of the two households and their relative proximity. Once pairs of similar households are detected, the census questionnaires for a sample of them are verified manually to determine the amount of overcoverage.

The Collective Dwelling Study (CDS) measures overcoverage of persons who are enumerated in both a private dwelling and also in a collective dwelling, such as a hospital, a hotel, or a student residence.

In addition to the AMS and CDS, overcoverage can also be detected by the RRC study.

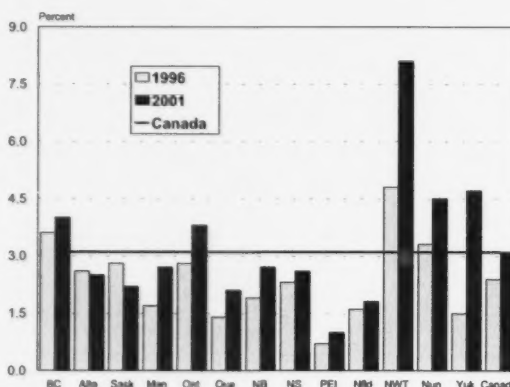
There is another category of missed, which the RCC can not adequately measure, namely **incompletely enumerated Indian reserves** and Indian settlements, where enumeration was not permitted or was interrupted before it could be completed, or where the quality of the data was considered inadequate. A regression model is used to estimate this category of missed people.

There are two other categories in which people may be missed, but for which there are no adequate estimates:

- **Returning emigrants**, Canadian citizens or landed immigrants who emigrated before the 1996 Census and returned to Canada to take up permanent residence prior to the 2001 Census;
- **Temporarily abroad**, Canadian citizens or landed immigrants who were temporarily abroad in 1996, did not have a usual place of residence in Canada, and returned to Canada prior to the 2001 Census.

The following chart shows the results of the 2001 Census coverage studies by Statistics Canada published on September 25, 2003. The 1996 net undercoverage rate is also shown for comparison purposes. Note that this rate has been revised from that previously published as a result of information obtained from the 2001 coverage studies.

**In 2001 B.C. had a high undercoverage rate among the provinces.**



The estimates indicate that in 2001 British Columbia had a net under-coverage rate that was much higher than that of other provinces. This situation is not unique, as in most censuses B.C. has had a higher than average proportion of the population that was missed. Some of the factors that may contribute to the high rate are the remoteness of some areas of the province, the high mobility of the population and the large number of recent immigrants, in particular those from non-English speaking countries. All of these factors tend to make the population more difficult to locate and enumerate successfully.

From the table below it can be seen that the Census of 1991 was somewhat of an anomaly. The net undercount for B.C. was about the same as the national average, while in 1981, 1986, 1996 and 2001 the rates were relatively high. The



1991 result may have been partially a result of a special census undercount project that was initiated jointly by BC Stats and Statistics Canada prior to the 1991 Census. The purpose of this project was to improve the coverage of the census itself by developing an address file of dwellings using administrative records from

many sources and also by compiling better geographical information on the location of addresses. A similar project was not undertaken for either the 1996 or the 2001 Census, and the higher undercoverage rates may be part of the consequences.

Estimated Census Coverage Error (%)  
(2001 Figures Based upon the Reverse Record Check)

	2001						
	Gross Undercoverage	Gross Overcoverage	Net Undercoverage	1996	1991	1986	1981
<b>British Columbia</b>	<b>5.30</b>	<b>1.26</b>	<b>4.04</b>	<b>3.68</b>	<b>2.47</b>	<b>3.25</b>	<b>2.20</b>
Alberta	3.18	0.89	2.29	2.40	1.63	2.18	1.62
Saskatchewan	3.18	1.06	2.12	2.75	1.40	1.59	0.47
Manitoba	3.49	0.80	2.69	1.67	1.57	2.25	0.55
Ontario	4.56	0.88	3.68	2.73	3.18	2.49	1.29
Quebec	2.93	1.03	1.90	1.61	2.35	2.04	1.23
New Brunswick	3.57	0.89	2.68	1.89	2.85	1.92	1.18
Nova Scotia	3.44	0.81	2.63	2.24	1.57	1.46	0.60
PEI	1.89	0.92	0.97	0.85	0.55	1.43	0.70
Newfoundland	2.43	0.63	1.80	1.68	1.86	1.31	1.09
NWT *	9.10	1.00	8.11	4.48	4.92	4.60	3.12
Nunavut	5.07	0.59	4.49	3.29			
Yukon	5.59	0.86	4.73	5.22	3.17	3.25	1.96
Canada	3.95	0.96	2.99	2.45	2.52	2.31	1.31

Source: Statistics Canada

\*Pre-1996 figures represent combined NWT and Nunavut

If we look at the Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs), the Net Undercoverage rates from the RRC for all CMAs across Canada was 3.15%, and 2.70% for the non-CMA areas. In BC the CMAs have considerably higher net undercounts than the national level, as can be seen in the following table.

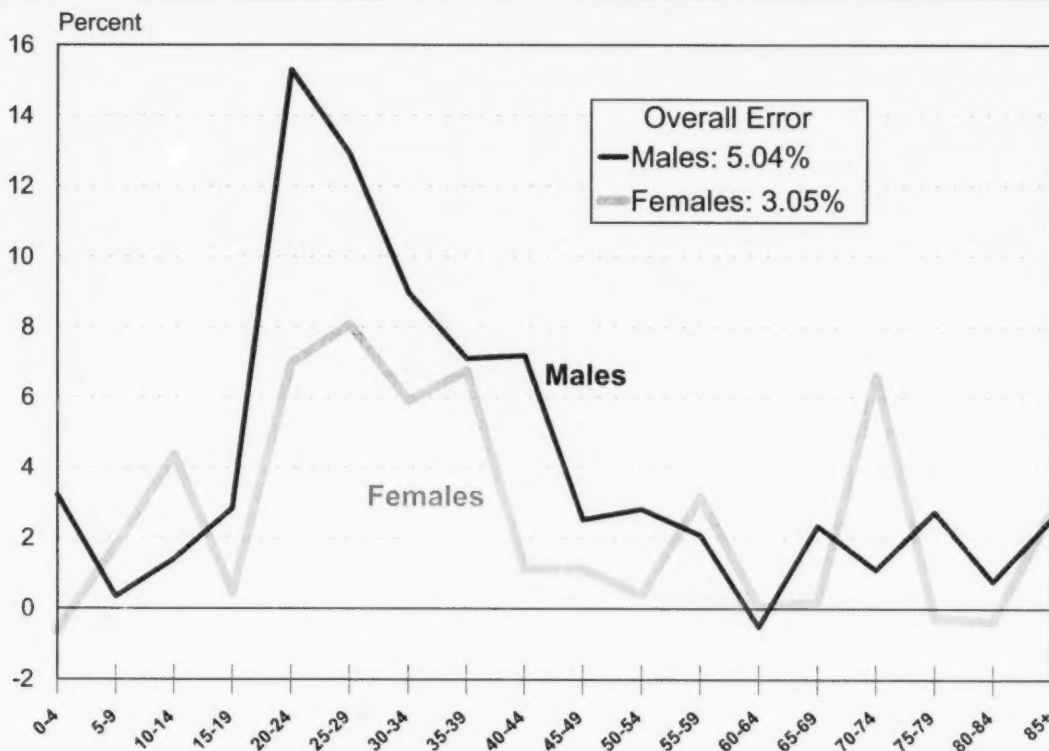
**2001 Estimated CMA Net Undercoverage**  
**All CMA (Canada): 3.15%**

Abbotsford	5.44%
Vancouver	3.86%
Victoria	3.94%

It should also be noted that coverage errors are extremely variable by age and gender (see the following RRC table and graph). Thus the net undercoverage rates by region within BC may potentially vary considerably depending on the region's age/gender structure.

**B.C. 2001 Census Net Undercoverage by Age/Gender**

Age	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+
Males: 5.04%	3.22	0.34	1.41	2.84	15.29	12.91	8.97	7.10	7.18	2.52	2.82	2.09	-0.51	2.34	1.10	2.73	0.77	2.55
Females: 3.05%	-0.62	1.78	4.36	0.46	6.98	8.08	5.91	6.76	1.14	1.14	0.41	3.16	0.06	0.19	6.61	-0.25	-0.35	2.81





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## BC at a glance . . .

<b>POPULATION (thousands)</b>		
	Jul 1/03	% change on one year ago
BC	4,146.6	0.8
Canada	31,629.7	0.9
<b>GDP and INCOME</b>		
(BC - at market prices)	2002	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	135,552	2.7
GDP (\$ 1997 millions)	128,151	2.4
GDP (\$ 1997 per Capita)	31,143	1.5
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 1997 per Capita)	19,576	0.1
<b>TRADE (\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)</b>		
		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Sep	2,903	2.5
Merchandise Exports - Sep	2,558	1.3
Retail Sales - Aug	3,480	1.6
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX</b>		
(all items - 1992=100)	Oct '03	12-month avg % change
BC	120.6	2.5
Canada	122.4	3.2
<b>LABOUR FORCE (thousands)</b>		
(seasonally adjusted)	Oct '03	% change on prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,222	0.1
Employed - BC	2,048	1.5
Unemployed - BC	173	-13.7
		Sep '03
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	7.8	9.1
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	7.6	8.0
<b>INTEREST RATES (percent)</b>		
	Nov 19/03	Nov 20/02
Prime Business Rate	4.50	4.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	4.75	4.90
- 5 year	6.65	6.70
<b>US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE</b>		
	Nov 19/03	Nov 20/02
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$	1.3035	1.5839
US \$ (reciprocal of the closing rate)	0.7663	0.6306
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE</b>		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Oct '03	% change on one year ago
BC	683.06	1.7
Canada	668.63	2.7
<b>SOURCES:</b>		
Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada		
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics		
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see <a href="http://www.bankofcanada.ca">www.bankofcanada.ca</a>		

## 2001 Census Profiles

We have started the roll-out of our area profiles based on the 2001 Census. Check them out at

[www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen01/c01index.htm](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen01/c01index.htm)

Each 18-page profile, in PDF format, reveals just about all you can know about an area. Three pages of charts compare the area's makeup to that of the province (or country in the case of our provincial profiles). These are followed by data tables showing both local values and percentage distributions. A number of charts and tables feature data sorted according to the unique local experience.

Canada, the provinces, & regional district profiles are posted to our site now. We will post an additional 1400 areas as soon as we develop the look-up code and obtain the required storage capacity - coming soon are profiles for

- ✓ **Census Subdivisions** (municipalities, regional district electoral areas, Indian reserves)
- ✓ **Urban Areas & neighbourhoods** in larger metro areas (CA/CMA and census tracts)
- ✓ **Designated Places** (unincorporated areas identified prior to the census)

These additional files will be available in our WebStore for \$5 each and will be included in our subscription site (\$200/year).

*Did you know . . .*

Many public & academic libraries in BC offer free access to our subscription site.

### Released this week by BC STATS

- Exports, September 2003
- Consumer Price Index, October 2003

### Next week

- Business Indicators, November 2003
- Current Statistics, November 2003
- Earnings & Employment Trends, October 2003

